

XXXV.—*Narrative of a Visit to Somaliland in 1897, with Field-notes on the Birds obtained during the Expedition.*
By E. LORT PHILLIPS, F.Z.S.

(Plates VIII.—X.)

EARLY in January 1897 I returned to Somaliland accompanied by my wife, my niece (Miss Gillett), her brother (Mr. F. Gillett), Mr. G. P. V. Aylmer, Mr. Ivers Bland, and Mr. Guy Fremantle. I had engaged to assist me with my specimens a young taxidermist, Leonard Harwood, who, with Aylmer's man, George, completed our rather formidable party of Europeans. Our object was to explore the Goolis range to the eastward of Berbera as far as Mount Wagga*, to add, if possible, to the scientific knowledge of this part of Africa, and to avail ourselves, as well, of any sport obtainable along and beyond the reservation-line that has been drawn in so arbitrary a manner by the "powers that be" at Aden. At Berbera we were most hospitably received by Mr. Malcolm Jones, who was administering justice during the absence of the Resident, Capt. Merewether. He, with Mrs. Merewether, was on a shooting-trip in the interior. We pitched our tents, as before, on the little maidan or square, which is now adorned with a most practical native hospital, having separate wards for men, women, and children, the result of Capt. Merewether's energetic appeals to travellers and others on behalf of the Somali sick. Our stay at Berbera was short, as, with our former head man, Egga Nalaya, and several of our old camp-servants who "knew the ropes," we quickly got our camels, horses, and men together, though it entailed some really heavy work to equip so large a party. However, we had a little play in the form of some delightful rides in the evenings along the shore, returning in the brilliant moonlight, which threw an enchantment over everything, making even the little glary desert town look charming, with its waving palms and minarets. On January 23rd we made a short march to Dobar, where

* Most of our Stations will be found marked in the map of Northern Somaliland published in the 'Geographical Journal' for 1898, p. 112.

we halted one day, and spent most of our time in and around the garden. Alas! our old friend Farag, the ex-Egyptian black soldier, had gone the way of all flesh, his place being taken by a Yemen Arab. Among the Berbera jail-birds working in the garden we were shocked to find one of our former and best-behaved camel-men with irons on his legs. Of course, he assured us that he was the victim of false swearing, and was perfectly innocent of the charge against him, which was one of highway robbery with violence to the person. Poor Yessir, he certainly did not look like a brigand, and we could not help feeling sorry that he had, guilty or not guilty, fallen on such evil times, so we gave him the wherewithal to purchase a few luxuries, and left him muttering—fatalist, as they all are—“*Al Allah,*” “It is the will of God.”

Leaving Dobar, we marched due west until we came to a gap in the hills, when we turned southward along the dry bed of the torrent that had made the “pass.” At midday we halted for luncheon at our old camping-ground, Boosti, sending Egga on with the caravan with orders to have the tents up and tea ready by the time we arrived. Though Boosti is a parched, waterless place, it does not lack animal life. Dik-diks (*Neotragus phillipsi*) and ground-squirrels were plentiful, and there were several gazelles feeding within sight. Birds and butterflies were well represented, and a splendid Bateleur Eagle circled round and round us, uttering its weird cry. At nightfall we found our tents pitched among the tamarisk-bushes in a narrow defile called Daggach Dyair, the “*Baboon Rocks,*” a name well chosen, as the next morning, before breakfast, a large troop of these brutes barked and grunted at us from the overhanging cliffs, while we, equally curious, turned every available glass upon our inquisitive visitors.

Our march that day followed the windings of a tiny stream, which at first was a mere thread, but by the time we neared its source (the big fig-tree at Bihen) it was quite a respectable little beck. In most countries a stream dwindles towards its source, but in parched and burning Africa the reverse is

the case. We saw and shot several Waders and a Hammer-head. A pair of Egyptian Geese, however, which we badly wanted for the pot, escaped us, and as they flew past down stream we did not see them again.

We reached Bihen in capital time and pitched our tents just beyond the big fig-tree the roots of which are the cradle of the stream, the water bubbling up from among them slightly warm and beautifully clear. The little oasis was full of life, a flock of sheep and a few cattle were enjoying the bright green grass, while their owners were exchanging news with some traders from the interior, whose caravan was passing at the time on its way to Berbera. From them we heard that two white men were encamped at the bottom of the Sheikh Pass, some 15 miles south of us. Next morning Aylmer and Gillett started off to make the second known ascent of Dimoleh Mountain. Our former tent-servant and wag, Hersi-Shirreh, was not with us on this occasion, so he was spared the chance of an offer of two hundred pounds to accompany "Mr. Elmer" a second time, which he declared he would refuse sooner than face that fearful climb again. Soon after breakfast the two "white men" we had been told of arrived. They proved to be Messrs. Parkinson and Dunbar, who had been on a surveying expedition in the Wadi Nogal and Boor Dap district, a locality noted for the wildness of its inhabitants, who live by looting passing caravans that are not strong enough to protect themselves. These light-fingered gentry, not content with the lesson they had had from Col. Paget some years previously, swooped down and drove off Mr. Parkinson's camels while their owners were away shooting. By the greatest good luck, however, on their way to camp, they met the raiders with their booty, and recognizing their own beasts by the brand-marks, they were able, by "emptying a couple of saddles," to regain possession of the whole herd, and thus saved themselves from being stranded in a hostile country without the means of moving. Boor Dap (Fire Mountain) is a peak where a "look-out" is kept, and on which a lighted beacon warns the robber tribes of the approach of a caravan.

Mr. Dunbar is a young Scotchman of barely twenty summers, full of enthusiasm.

Aylmer and Gillett returned late, having had a long and fatiguing day ; their expedition, however, had been most successful, for not only had they discovered, on the west side, an easier way up than that by which Aylmer had made his first ascent in 1895, but they had also brought back some rare botanical specimens, one of which has proved to be unknown to science. The next day we sent the camels on, giving Egga orders to camp at Gello-kur, while we ourselves, as the march was a short one, lingered at Bihen and had luncheon under the big fig-tree. On arriving at Gello-kur we did not see the tents, but were surprised to find the little valley choked with a jungle of castor-oil plants, quite tall enough to have hidden a herd of elephants, had any been there. We thought this most extraordinary, for, though the castor-oil plant is far from uncommon, we had previously only noticed them dotted about singly among other bushes, while here was seemingly a regular plantation of them, and on ground where there were certainly very few, if any, when last we camped here. Curiously enough, the natives are quite ignorant of the virtues of this most useful plant in its rough state, but were loud in their praises of the manufactured article, of which we had a good supply. Much as we should have liked to have dawdled here with gun and net, we were obliged to push on, as it was uncertain where we should find the tents and it was already late, so we left Gello-kur (Place of the Little Bustard) for the second time with many regrets. We found the tents pitched on a bare and unattractive-looking spot, which boasted of the charming name of Warra Ballambal (the Plain of Butterflies), but the news which greeted us was most alarming. Harwood's pony, on being unsaddled, refused to go out to graze, and shortly after dropped down dead, with a nasty glary discharge at the nostrils. Everything pointed to glanders, and we were in terror lest our other mounts should be carried off in like manner. We had the body dragged some way off to leeward and hoped for the best. Very soon the hyænas had discovered

the carcass, and it was evident that they were rejoicing over our misfortune. For them "the best" had already arrived, for us a few days' anxious watching proved that our fears were groundless. Next morning the trees and rocks were covered with various kinds of Vultures, while many more circled round the remains of the hyænas' feast, a grand sight for those among us who had never before seen these great birds at home. Load up and off again was the order of the day, as there was not a particle of shade in this place, nor were butterflies plentiful, in spite of its high-sounding title.

We were now within a short march of the Sheikh Pass, where a splendidly-engineered road leads to the upper ledges of the Goolis and to the vast elevated plateau called the Howd. A short march brought us to the first low spurs of the Goolis that run out into the Gooban or Maritime Plain; once within these the whole scene changes, and the traveller finds that he has exchanged the stunted mimosas of the burning Gooban for trees of considerable size, among which the candelabra-like euphorbias are most conspicuous; birds are seen and heard in all directions, while large new butterflies of the family Papilionidæ appear for the first time. We followed the course of a merry little brook for some three miles and pitched our camp on some rising ground by a huge fig-tree, as we heard that the old camping-ground at Hammar was now occupied by a stone guard-house for the protection of the pass. As we were anxious to get up into the cool air, we resumed our march again next day, and soon passed the new guard-house, which looked very comfortable. The ground about it had been enclosed, and an irrigation-trench had been cut above it to bring water from the stream for the use of the garden which was being laid out.

Our camels ascended the pass easily, as the road, good as it was in 1895, had been much improved since. On reaching the summit we turned to the left, towards the little white Marabout or Sheikh from which the pass takes its name. Beyond the tomb are some gigantic euphorbia-trees, close to which we pitched our tents on a piece of ground as smooth

and level as if it had been laid out for polo. Doubtless this land was under cultivation ages ago, as close by are the ruins of what must have been a considerable town of stone houses, while thousands upon thousands of graves, the foot- and headstones still standing, suggest a former large population. The next day Aylmer left us. Taking his tent and a few camels, he started off for Burao, on the edge of the Howd, where report said that lions were killing cattle. His start was, however, most unpropitious, for, as the loaded camels were waiting patiently and the last adieus were being made, Fremantle fired a shot at an Eagle, which caused a general stampede, and down came tents, water-barrels, and "ghee-tius" among the gravestones, with the result that several had to be returned into store.

As we were now beyond the reservation limit we unpacked our rifles, and the camp was soon decorated with skulls and horns. Our botanical and ornithological collections had been growing meanwhile, and several most interesting additions which have since proved new to science were made here.

On February 5th, leaving Sheikh, we turned eastward, and marched in the direction of Wagga Mountain, little dreaming how long it would really take us before we reached its cloud-capped summit. A short march through ideal-looking game-country brought us to a water-hole, by which we camped for the night. Luckily we had brought a supply of drinking-water from Sheikh for our own use, as the water here was of the most filthy description, being almost too offensive even to wash with. To our Somalis this was no hardship, and we watched them gulping it down with evident gusto. Again and again I have noticed that the Somalis seem utterly indifferent to the quality of their drinking-water, while with regard to their food they are "faddy" in the extreme. They will not eat the flesh of the Water-buck (*Cobus ellipsiprymnus*), or of the Gerenook (*Gazella walleri*), or of any bird, neither will they eat fish or eggs. Fishes, they say, are near of kin to snakes, which they hold in particular horror; while eggs, they allege, are not fit for food, being simply undeveloped birds. This, of course, does not apply to the coast

Somalis and to those living at Aden, where fish is abundant and is one of the staple articles of food.

At sundown the water-hole was visited by hundreds of Sand-Grouse (*Pterocles lichtensteini*) and a few shots secured a welcome addition to our larder. Next day we marched to Sogsoda, at the head of the Rugga Pass, where there is a permanent village of moolahs or priests, who live by contributions levied on passing caravans and by the cultivation of a little doorah and jowari.

Here we were greeted by a former camp-servant, Jama Deeria by name, whose gorriar or kraal was in the neighbourhood. Though we had found him rather a scamp, we were delighted to see him, as we had heard that he had lost his life while in the service of Major and Mrs. Renton, who had visited the country the previous year. It appeared, however, that we had had another Jama Deeria in our employ, a camel-driver, and it was this man of whose tragic death we had heard before leaving England—the details of which I will give as an illustration of the stealth, daring, and cunning of a hungry lion:—One night Major and Mrs. Renton were watching by a water-hole in the hope of getting a shot at a zebra. These creatures drink only at the first streak of dawn, so it meant a whole night out for the watchers. On the lady's account a strong circular thorn-protection had been built, and into this Major and Mrs. Renton retired at sundown with their man Jama Deeria, the entrance-hole being closed by a thick thorn-bush drawn into it and secured. In the middle of the night, which was an intensely dark one, Mrs. Renton, who had fallen asleep, woke up. Hearing heavy breathing and crunching of bones quite close to her, she awoke her husband, who had also been asleep, and getting no answer from Jama they struck a match and found to their horror that the man was gone. Meanwhile the cracking of bones continued, so several shots were fired in the direction of the sound, which only had the effect of moving the lion and his prey a little further off, where he continued his ghastly meal within hearing. The rest of the night was spent, as may be supposed, in watchfulness, and with the

feeling of the dreadful possibility of another attack on the zareeba, though how the man had been got out of it it was impossible to tell by the feeble light of a match. However, when the welcome morning light appeared, a small opening was seen close to the ground, through which the wretched man had been drawn. The lion must have found this small aperture, and, reaching in his forearm, have dealt the sleeper nearest to him a swift, heavy blow, killing him instantly. He had then withdrawn the body so noiselessly that the other two inmates of the zareeba were not disturbed, and had he not commenced to devour his victim at once, the man's disappearance might not have been noticed for some hours.

We did not intend to remain at Sogsoda for more than three days, but the Fates were against us, as George, Aylmer's servant, caught an attack of fever which made us anxious, for quinine seemed unable to reduce his temperature, which continued very high. Luckily his master returned unexpectedly, and the next day the fever yielded to his superior medical skill.

Aylmer's expedition to Burao had not been a success so far as lions were concerned. Lions certainly had been there, but they had shifted their quarters by the time he arrived. Wagga Mountain, the goal of our expedition, was only some fifteen miles distant; yet, now that we were so near, it seemed that our hopes of camping on its summit were to meet with disappointment. Egga, our head man, who had been confident before, now suddenly found the project bristling with difficulties, the most alarming of which was that if there were a path, which he doubted, our camels would never get up with their loads. He also assured us that Captain Swayne, the only Englishman who had ever visited the mountain, had done so from where we camped and had returned the same day, a statement which we found hard to believe. However, for the present there was no idea of moving camp, owing to George's illness, so Bland and I started one morning at daybreak on a voyage of discovery, taking with us the two riding-camels and two men. Having crossed a barren bit of country resembling downs, where we saw and secured several

specimens of the Somali Courser (*Cursorius somaliensis*), the first we had met with, we came to a gorriar or native village, outside which a man was lying in the sun. To all our questions he returned the same answer, viz. that he was a "stranger" newly arrived and that he did not know the country, also that he was too busy (!) to come with us, even the sight of rupees having no power to move him. Leaving our surly friend to his arduous duties, we pushed on and turned up a long narrow valley which led to the foot of the mountain, at the end of which we found another gorriar, the inhabitants of which turned out to inspect us as we came up. Curiously enough these people were also strangers (!!!) and declared that they had only just arrived from the Howd a few days before, and that they knew nothing of the cloud-covered mountain towering above them. From where we stood, a well-defined track could be seen leading upward till it was lost in the mist; so, leaving one man in charge of the camels, we began the ascent on foot. The track, though steep, was fairly good, and we noted with pleasure that it was used by camels, a fact which lifted a weight from our minds, for where loaded camels could go our camp could go also. Three-quarters of an hour's climb brought us to the edge of a sort of crater or hollow depression, the sides of which were covered with sheep and goats, while some horses and camels were feeding near a gorriar that was just discernible through the mist. While picking our way among the boulders towards the village we suddenly came upon a shepherdess in the person of an ancient hag, who was cowering below an overhanging rock and had not noticed our approach. At first she seemed paralyzed with terror; but, gathering her wits, she set off towards the gorriar, screaming at the top of her cracked voice, at a speed that did her the greatest credit. Her shrill cry soon brought the men out of the huts, but to whatever motive they may have attributed our presence, they certainly welcomed us and offered us milk, of which we stood greatly in need. I may as well state here a fact of which we ourselves were not aware till some weeks later—namely, that the people inhabiting this mountain, the Moosa Jibreel,

a sub-tribe of the Eesa Moosa, had lately been indulging in looting passing caravans, for which offence several of their number were now in irons in Berbera, while several more were particularly "wanted," and among those the genial old gentleman whose hospitality we were then enjoying. It appeared afterwards that they had been warned of our intention of ascending the mountain, and as their guilty consciences suggested that we represented the strong arm of the law, they had done their best to thwart our object, even to intimidating our own men. Hence all the difficulties of which we had been told, as well as the extraordinary ignorance of the country displayed by all from whom we sought information. Bland and I, however, were happily ignorant of the real feelings of our hosts, who not only showed us their water-supply and the best camping-ground, but also promised to help our caravan up the steep pass with their mountain-bred camels, so that we returned to camp greatly elated with the success of our expedition.

A few days later, George being considered well enough to travel, we left Sogsoda and marched to the base of Wagga, where we awaited the arrival of our mountain friends with their promised assistance; it required, however, two interviews, and the acceptance on our part of two presents of milk, before sufficient confidence was established and the welcome camels made their appearance. Meanwhile Aylmer and Gillett, having completed their arrangements, left us and struck out into the Howd towards Eyk in the hope of finding lions, and we did not meet again till we arrived at Dobar, eight miles from Berbera. The camels that old Osman and his son Artan brought were magnificent creatures, and, from having been bred on the steep sides of Wagga, they had developed muscles that are entirely wanting in the heavy "ships of the Desert" used only to the level plain, and it was to the latter class that our own animals belonged, so that we soon saw that without help we should never have accomplished our object. The name of the hollow before mentioned was Hankadeely. Here we pitched our camp in a grove of giant euphorbias and spent three delightful weeks. For the men

there was a certain amount of shooting, while for the ladies there were expeditions to be made in all directions amid scenery that would be hard to beat. With the exception of old Osman and his sons the other Moosa Jibreel were rather shy of us at first, but this wore off after a bit, and they brought in supplies of milk for sale, which was a great boon both to us and to our men. The latter constructed capital houses for themselves out of boughs of trees and camel-mats, and, as it was the fast of Ramadan, they spent all their time learning both to repeat and to write prayers, from a widat or priest who had been "laid on" for the occasion. Sheets of writing-paper were in great request as well as pieces of board from old packing-cases—the latter, planed smooth, taking the place of slates. On March 4th, the last day of the fast of Ramadan, a day of great rejoicing in the Mahomedan world, we celebrated the occasion by a general feast and athletic sports, to which the Moosa Jibreel were invited, rather against the wishes of our own men, who could not bear them, though they did not care to show it. The day, however, was a great success and terminated happily without any quarrels or heartburnings, the wily priest arranging with the men that all the prize-money had better be given over to him for "the glory of God," to which proposal, as good Mahomedans, they readily assented. The next day we packed up and descended to the Howd plateau, camping at Gedaïs, where we found several large pools of water connected by a tiny stream. Here we anxiously awaited the arrival of the post, hoping that it would bring an extension of leave for Fremantle, who otherwise would have to leave us to rejoin his regiment. The post-bag, however, contained no reprieve, so he started homewards alone, to our great disappointment.

The next day, while far from water, we came across a wretched woman in the last stages of exhaustion, having been without food or water (according to her own account) for 12 days. The poor creature was suffering from a tumour in the knee, and being unable to walk she had been left behind by her inhuman relations when they had shifted their

camping-ground. Why she had not been devoured by hyænas was a mystery, as she was far too weak to defend herself, and could only manage to crawl with the aid of a stick. We took her back with us to camp and eventually left her, at her own wish, with the native moolahs or priests at the top of the Rugga Pass. Leaving Gedaïs on the 12th March we turned our faces homewards, spending 10 days among the foot-hills and valleys at the bottom of Rugga, where we made many interesting additions to our scientific collections. While here we were startled one morning by a cheery well-known greeting, and in walked Fremantle, who had got his reprieve after all. He had, however, very nearly missed it at Berbera, and would have done so had not a slight attack of sun-stroke, brought on by his forced march to the coast, prevented his sailing the evening of his arrival in a wretched little native boat which had been engaged for him by a runner sent on ahead. That night the steamer arrived from Aden and with it the long hoped-for letter.

Our road to the coast took us through a curious bit of country which is rapidly being washed away by the floods that rush down the face of the Goolis during the rains. So rapidly indeed is the denudation taking place that well-defined paths may be seen ending abruptly on the edge of cliffs from 50 to 100 feet deep, every runnel of water eating out a *canyon* for itself, as the ground is very soft and friable. During the dry season the water in these canyons is highly alkaline and quite undrinkable.

On March 28th Gillett overtook us, and we were very sorry to learn that the expedition into the Howd had been unsuccessful so far as lions were concerned. Gillett had left Aylmer in the Sheikh Pass and had struck eastward in the hope of cutting us off, but finding only our "cold tracks" had had some hard marching to come up with us. Aylmer joined us the next day at Dobar, so our party was once more complete. We spent a day here arranging our collections for the voyage home, and reached Berbera on April 1st, where we were most kindly received by Captain and Mrs. Merewether. On the 3rd we crossed to Aden in the

little steamer 'Sheikh Berkhud,' and received on landing a most welcome invitation to Government House from General and Mrs. Cunningham.

In arranging the following field-notes, which give the results of our observations during the expedition, I am gratefully indebted to my friend Dr. Bowdler Sharpe for his kind assistance, and in compiling them I have followed the order of classification adopted by him in his paper on the Birds of Western Somaliland (P. Z. S. 1895, pp. 457-520).

1. RHINOCORAX AFFINIS (Rüpp.); Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 30.

No. 164. ♂. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 22, 1897. Iris black.

This Short-tailed Raven is extremely common in Somaliland, from the sea-coast at Berbera to the top of the Goolis. It is a persistent and most fearless camp-follower, and is ever on the look-out for scraps from the kitchen. It has a curious habit of walking about with its beak wide open, as if greatly affected by the heat.

2. CORONE EDITHÆ Lort Phillips, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, iv. p. 36 (1895).

No. 22. ♀ ad. Berbera, Jan. 18, 1897. Iris brown.

We met with this Crow at Berbera, where it was to be seen in company with the Short-tailed Raven (*Rhinocorax affinis*). Though not so plentiful as the latter species, it was fairly common on the Goolis range during our visit.

3. LAMPROCOLIUS CHALYBEUS (Ehr.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 84.

No. 86. ♀ ad. Sheikh, Jan. 30, 1897. Iris yellow.

No. 138. ♀ ad. Sogsoda, Feb. 14, ,, ,, ,,

No. 139. ♂ ad. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

No. 225. ♀ juv. Wagga, Mar. 6, ,, ,, ,,

No. 239. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

No. 225 is in full moult on the wings.

This Glossy Starling seems to prefer the cooler heights of the Goolis to the Gooban or hot coast-land, where I do not remember to have seen it. In the former locality, however,

it is met with in small flocks occasionally. In its habits, note, and choice of breeding-places it is quite distinct from *Spreo superbis*.

4. *AMYDRUS BLYTHI* Hartl. ; Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 31.

Amydrus morio (nec L.) ; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 83.

No. 46. ♂ juv. Dobar springs, Jan. 24, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 71. ♀ ad. Goolis foot-hills, Jan. 28, " " "

What I take to be the immature male is much duller than the adults, and the little gloss it has is green above and below. In this respect it approaches *A. frater* of Socotra, but the latter bird has a longer bill and the gloss on the underparts is distinctly metallic.

Dr. Sharpe agrees with me that the specimen which he identified as *A. morio* in my first Goolis collection must be referred to *A. blythi*.

I was much interested to find a flock of these Grakles in the gardens at the Dobar springs, eight miles inland from Berbera, as I had previously noticed them only on the upper ledges of the Goolis, where they were evidently breeding in holes in the face of a cliff.

5. *HETEROPSAR ALBICAPILLUS* (Blyth) ; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 461.

No. 40. ♂ ad. The Gooban, Jan. 21, 1897. Iris white.

No. 41. ♂ ad. " " " " "

No. 82. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 30, " " "

No. 83. Juv. " " " " "

No. 84. Juv. " " " " "

The male from the Sheikh plateau, 3000 feet (No. 82), differs from the two other specimens of the same sex in having large spots of black at the end of the long upper tail-coverts. There is a great difference in the breadth of the white stripes on the under surface of the body in the male (No. 40), and the white spotting of the upper surface is rather more distinct than in the other adult males. This individual is probably a young bird in its first full plumage. The two young birds shot on January the 30th differ very

much in colour from the adults, especially in their bright yellow bills; the crown is ashy instead of pure white; the upper and under surfaces of the body are ashy brown, with pale ashy-grey centres to the feathers of the throat and breast; the lores, cheeks, and ear-coverts are dusky blackish.

6. SPREO SUPERBUS (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 83.

No. 137.	♀.	Sogsoda,	Feb. 14,	1897.	Iris light yellow.
No. 244.	♂.	Wagga,	Mar. 6,	„ „ „	„ „ „
No. 226.	♂.	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „
No. 252.		Gedaïs,	Mar. 13,	„ „ „	„ „ „
No. 254.	♂.	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „
No. 257.		„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ „ „

We met with this handsome Glossy Starling from the Gooban to the top of the Goolis range. It is an early breeder, the young being fully fledged by the middle of March.

7. BUPHAGA ERYTHORHYNCHA Stanl.; Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 82.

Somali name "Hoorie."

No. 247. ♂. Gedaïs, March 13, 1897. Iris yellow; bill bright red; eyelids yellow, very permanent.

This Red-billed Camel-bird is to be met with all over the country wherever there are herds of camels or cattle. It is gregarious, and I have seen some flocks numbering quite 50 individuals. When on the wing it is very noisy, uttering a somewhat harsh note.

8. BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS (Bechst.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 76.

No. 167. ♂. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 23, 1897. Iris red.

This black Drongo is to be met with from the Gooban to the top of Wagga Mountain, some 8000 feet above the sea. It is very fearless, and, owing to its colouring, it is one of the most conspicuous objects in the bird-life of the country.

9. *HYPHANTORNIS SPEKII* Heugl.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 469 (1890).

No. 112. ♂. Sogsoda Plain, Feb. 2, 1897.

This handsome Weaver-bird does not appear to have been previously recorded from Somaliland. The only specimen seen was obtained on the Sogsoda Plain, which is a continuation of the Sheikh plateau, 3000 feet above the sea-level.

10. *HYPHANTORNIS GALBULA* (Rüpp.); Heuglin, Ibis, 1859, p. 342.

No. 284. ♂. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 22, 1897. Iris orange.

No. 303. ♂. " " " " " "

These bright little yellow Weaver-birds and their hanging pear-shaped nests are to be found at every watering-place, well, or stream throughout the country, from the Berbera gardens to the top of Wagga Mountain. The nests we examined in the third week of March all contained young.

11. *DINEMELLIA DINEMELLI* (Horsf.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 469.

Taxtor dinemellii, Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 82.

Though we occasionally met with this Red-rumped Weaver-bird on the Goolis Mountains, it seems to prefer the more open Howd or Gooban plain, where it builds its nest in colonies at the extremities of the boughs of the larger mimosa-trees.

12. *PETRONIA PYRGITA* (Heugl.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1897, p. 469.

No. 50. ♀ ad. The Gooban, Jan. 25, 1897. Iris black.

No. 196. ♂ ad. Wagga M'tain, Feb. 28, " " "

No. 197. ♀ ad. " " " " " "

No. 267. ♀ ad. Gedaïs, Mar. 18, " " "

We met with this Yellow-throated Sparrow both on the Gooban Plain and as high as 7000 feet on Wagga Mountain. On several occasions I noticed it perched on the thorn-hedge of a native gorriar.

13. *PASSER CASTANOPTERUS* Blyth; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 328 (1888).

No. 8. ♂ ad. Berbera, Jan. 16, 1897.

This beautiful little Sparrow represents in Berbera our

common bird at home. Its habits and note are almost identical with those of the latter. In January they were very busy nest-building, carrying long streamers of grass &c. to holes in the wall under the veranda-roof.

14. *PASSER DIFFUSUS* Smith ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 336 (1888).

No. 83. Sheikh, Jan. 30, 1897.

We obtained only one specimen of this Sparrow during the whole expedition.

15. *POLIOSPIZA PALLIDIOR* sp. nov.

Similis *P. tristriata*, sed subtus pallidior, magis grisescens, et rostro majore, saturatiore brunneo, fere nigricante distinguenda. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culm. 0·55, alæ 2·7, caudæ 2·15, tarsi 0·75.

No. 87. ♀. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 88. Ad. " " " " "

No. 161. Juv. Wagga, Feb. 21, " " "

No. 193. ♂ ad. " Feb. 27, " " "

No. 216. ♀ juv. " " " " "

Compared with the series of specimens of *P. tristriata* in the British Museum, all my Somali birds are very much greyer on the breast and sides of the body, the specimens from Abyssinia and Shoa being much darker on the under surface, not showing the white abdomen of *P. pallidior*. The dark colour of the bill is also a conspicuous feature in the Somali bird.

These White-browed Finches are to be found in the more thickly wooded parts of the Goolis range and Wagga Mountain, where we met with them in small family parties in February.

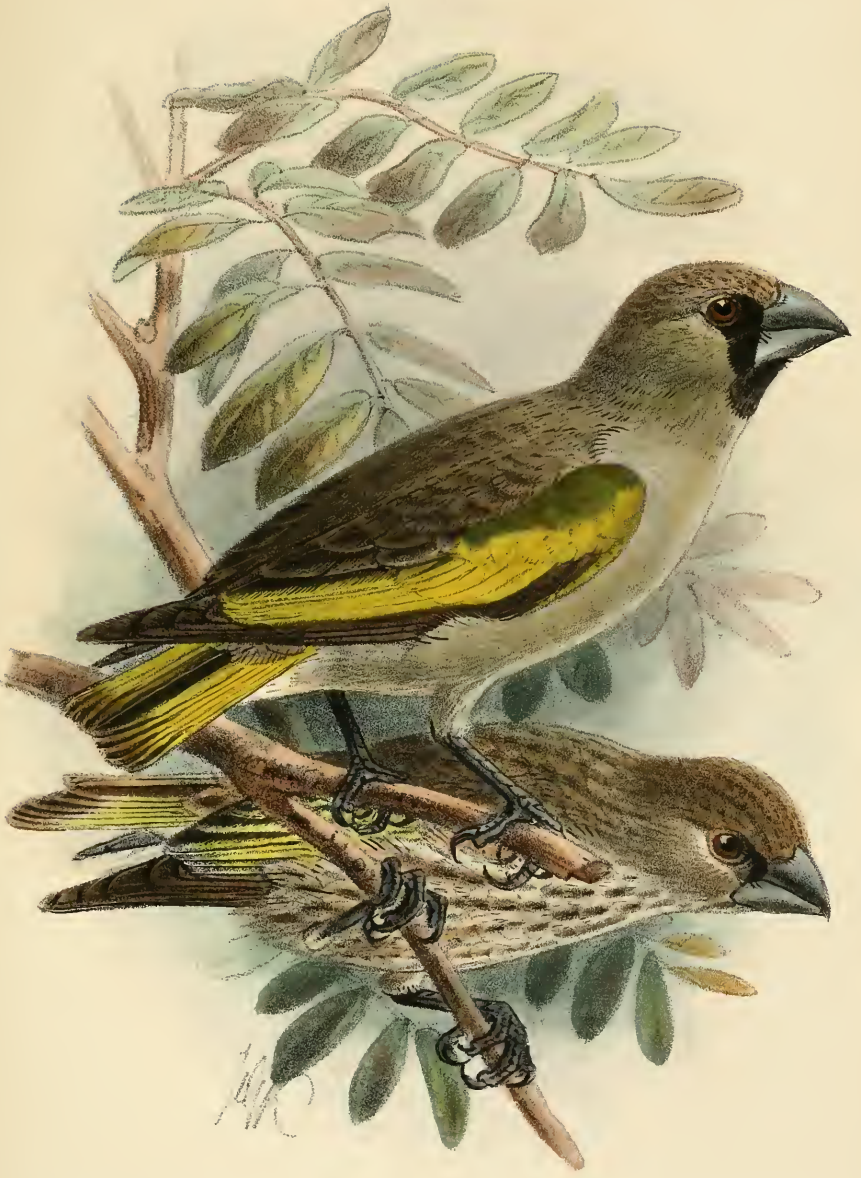
16. *RHYNCHOSTRUTHUS LOUISÆ* Lort Phillips, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club. vi. p. xlvii ; id. Ibis, 1897, p. 448. (Plate VIII.)

No. 89. ♀ ad. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897.

No. 90. " " "

No. 177. ♂ juv. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 24, 1897. Iris brown.

This species is smaller than *R. socotranus* and has not such



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros imp.

RHYHCHOSTRUTHUS LOUISÆ, ad. et juv.

a big bill as the latter. The ear-coverts and cheeks are ashy grey, like the sides of the neck and breast, and the absence of the white cheek-spot is, perhaps, the most characteristic feature of the Somali bird. The young bird is densely striped with blackish brown below, and has dusky centres to the feathers of the back. The black on the throat is absent, the golden-yellow of the quills and tail is less developed, and the greater coverts are black, with broad saffron-coloured margins, instead of being golden yellow, as in the adults. That so brightly-coloured and conspicuous a bird as this new Finch should have escaped being recorded for so long is indeed remarkable. In 1895, at the foot of the Sheikh Pass, I procured a specimen out of a small flock, but as it was badly shot I gave up the attempt of skinning it and threw it away, thinking that I should see plenty more, but I did not see any during the whole time I was then in the country.

17. *SERINUS MACULICOLLIS* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 470, pl. xxvii. fig. 1.

No. 92. ♀ juv. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897. Iris black.

The only place where we noticed this Finch was on the plateau at the top of the Sheikh Pass.

18. *FRINGILLARIA SEPTEMSTRIATA* (Rüpp.); Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 36 (1897).

No. 174. ♀. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 23, 1897. Iris black.

No. 184. ♂. " " Feb. 25, " " "

No. 203. ♂. " " " " " "

These little Buntings used to frequent the Hankadeely wells at mid-day in flocks of about a dozen. I did not notice them anywhere else during the expedition.

19. *FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI* (Smith); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 558 (1888).

No. 189. ♂ ad. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 26, 1897. Iris brown.

This specimen was in a flock of *F. septemstriata*, of which I shot several. The occurrence of this species so far north would be the more remarkable had it not been found by Prof. Balfour on the island of Socotra.

20. *ALÆMON ALAUDIPES* (Desf.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 518 (1890).

Certhialanda desertorum (nec Stanley); Heuglin, Ibis, 1859, p. 343.

No. 2. ♂. Berbera Plain, Jan. 15, 1897. { Iris dark hazel ;
legs white.

No. 3. ♂. " " " " " "

No. 4. ♀. " " " " " "

No. 13. ♂. " " Jan. 18, " " "

No. 14. ♂. " " " " " "

These strange Desert-birds were very plentiful on the Berbera Plain in January, and, as they were invariably met with in pairs, they may have been breeding. Their colouring so exactly matches that of the sand and stones among which they live, that they might easily escape observation altogether, were it not for a long-drawn melodious note frequently uttered. When followed they run with the greatest swiftness, instead of taking to flight.

21. *PSEUDALÆMON FREMANTLI*. (Plate IX. fig. 2.)

Calendula fremantli Lort Phillips, Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xlvii; id. Ibis, 1897, p. 448.

No. 147. Gedaïs, Feb. 16, 1897. Iris light hazel.

No. 148. " " " " "

No. 153. " Feb. 18, " " "

No. 154. " " " " "

No. 155. " " " " "

Captain Shelley has pointed out to me that this Lark is more nearly allied to the Desert-Larks of the *Alæmon* group than to *Calendula*, in which genus I had placed it. The bill is long and exceeds the middle toe and claw, but the first primary is very small, and thus *C. fremantli* becomes allied to *Chersophilus* and *Rhamphocorys*. It is with the latter genus that its stout bill causes it to be compared, and it has also the same kind of pattern on the face. *Rhamphocorys* has a uniform back and short inner secondaries, whereas in *Pseudalæmon*—as I propose, at Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's suggestion, to call this bird—the back is streaked with blackish, as in *Galerita*. The genus *Pseudalæmon* may be separated from *Rhamphocorys* as follows:—

Simile generi *Rhamphocoryi*, sed rostro longiore, tomio maxillæ integro, secundariis intimis elongatis primarios fere æquantibus distinguendum.

I have called this new Lark after Mr. Guy Fremantle, who was a most enthusiastic collector.

22. MIRAFRA GILLETTI Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 472.

No. 271. The Gooban, March 21, 1897. Iris hazel.

This Lark must be far from common, as we obtained only one specimen during the expedition.

23. GALERITA CRISTATA (Linn.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 472.

No. 15. ♂. Berbera, Jan. 13, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 152. ♂. Gedaïs, Feb. 18, ,, ,,

No. 225. ♂. Sogsoda, Mar. 15, ,, ,,

We found the Crested Lark both on the plateau and on the Maritime Plain. At Berbera itself it frequents the cattle-market, where it may always be seen on the rubbish-heaps.

24. AMMOMANES ARKELEYI Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 39 (1897).

No. 39. ♂. Berbera Plain, Jan. 21, 1897. Iris light hazel.

This Lark is far from common. We obtained only one specimen.

25. MOTACILLA MELANOPE Pallas.

Motacilla boarula Linn.; Salvad. Mem. R. Accad. Sci. Tor. (2) xlv. p. 557.

No. 186. ♀. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 25, 1897. Iris black.

This Wagtail was obtained at the Hankadeely wells on the mountain, about 7000 feet above the sea.

26. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS (Linn.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. x. p. 571 (1885).

No. 80. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 30, 1897. Iris hazel.

This Pipit was obtained on the plateau in the open ground. It does not appear to have been previously recorded from Somaliland.

27. *ANTHUS SORDIDUS* (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 81.

No. 98.	♂.	Sheikh Pass,	Feb. 2,	1897.	Iris brown.
No. 158.	♂.	Wagga,	Feb. 20,	„ „ „	„ „ „
No. 159.	„	„	„	„	„
No. 168.	„	Feb. 23,	„	„	„
No. 178.	„	Feb. 24,	„	„	„
No. 228.	„	Mar. 3,	„	„	„
No. 268.	„	Mar. 18,	„	„	„
No. 292.		Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 23,	„	„

This Pipit seems to prefer the more wooded districts to the open ground. We found it breeding early in March in 1895; the nest was placed in a bank and contained 4 eggs.

28. *ANTHUS CERVINUS* (Pall.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* x. p. 586 (1885).

No. 115. Sogsoda, Feb. 6, 1897. Iris hazel.

The Red-throated Pipit is here noted for the first time from Somaliland, where it doubtless occurs on migration, as it has already been recorded from Shoa by Count Salvadori, and there is a specimen in the British Museum obtained by Dr. S. L. Hinde at Machakos in British East Africa.

29. *CINNYRIS HABESSINICUS* (H. & E.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 81.

No. 59.	♂.	Sheikh Pass,	Jan. 27,	1897.	Iris bright hazel.
No. 60.	♂.	„ „	„ „	„ „	„ „
No. 97.	♂.	Sheikh,	Feb. 2,	„	„
No. 209.	♂.	Wagga, 7000 ft.,	Mar. 2,	„	„
No. 280.	♂.	„ „	„ „	„	„

This is the common Sun-bird of Northern Somaliland, and is to be met with from the Maritime Plain to the top of the Wagga Mountain, the highest peak of the Goolis range, where I found it breeding early in March. Its nest (see figure, p. 403) is hung from the extreme end of a branch, and is composed entirely of spiders' webs, decorated all over with minute empty cocoons. A little "penthouse" projects

over the entrance, which must be a great protection from the rain in its exposed position.



Nest of *Cinnyris habessinicus*.

30. *CINNYRIS ALBIVENTRIS* (Strickl.) ; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 82.

No. 221. ♂. Wagga, Mar. 6, 1897. Iris dark brown.

No. 308. ♂. The Gooban, Mar. 25, 1897. „ „

Fairly common from the Berbera Plain to the top of the Goolis Mountains.

31. ANTHOTHREPTES ORIENTALIS (Hartl.) ; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 475.

No. 302. ♂. Rugga Pass, Mar. 24, 1897. Iris black.

Only one specimen seen. So far as I could judge, the habits of this Sun-bird differ little from those of *Cinnyris habessinicus*.

22. HEDYDIPNA METALLICA (Licht.) ; Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 41 (1897).

No. 277. ♂. Rugga Pass, Mar. 21, 1897. Iris black.

No. 278. ♂. " " " " "

No. 279. ♂. " " " " "

No. 297. ♂. " Mar. 23, " " "

This little Sun-bird was very plentiful on the foot-hills of the Goolis and out on the Gooban towards the end of March. I think it must have been migrating northwards, as I had never previously noticed it in Somaliland.

33. PARUS THRUPPI Shelley, Ibis, 1885, p. 406, pl. xi. fig. 2 ; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 476.

No. 134. Sogsoda Plain, Feb. 14, 1897. Iris black.

Met with on several occasions in small families. Its note and habits are thoroughly characteristic of the Tit tribe. On March 23rd I found a pair nesting in a small hole in a tree about 20 feet from the ground.

34. LANIUS ANTINORII Salvad. ; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 76.

No. 16. ♂. Berbera Plain, Jan. 18, 1897. Iris dark hazel.

No. 54. ♂. Sheikh Pass, Jan. 26, " " "

No. 61. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 28, " " "

No. 151. ♂. Wagga, 7000 ft., Feb. 16, " "

This Shrike is to be found from Berbera itself to the top of Wagga Mountain. It is fairly plentiful and, from its bold colouring and its habit of choosing the topmost bough of a bush or tree as a resting-place, it is always a most conspicuous object in the bird-life of the country.

35. LANIUS PHENICUROIDES Sev. ; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 77.

No. 27. ♀. Berbera Gardens, Jan. 19, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 42.	♀.	Sheikh,	Jan. 28, 1897.	Iris brown.
No. 68.	♂.	„	„ „ „	„ „
No. 181.	♂.	Wagga,	Feb. 24, „	„ „
No. 261.	♂.	Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 18, „	„ „
No. 265.	♂.	„ „	„ „	„ „

Met with singly, and generally seen perched on the top-most branch of a bush, like *L. antinorii*.

36. *LANIARIUS CRUENTUS* (H. & E.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 77.

No. 47.	♂.	Berbera Plain,	Jan. 24, 1897.	Iris brown.
No. 94.	♂.	Sheikh,	Feb. 1, „	„ „
No. 95.	♀.	„	„ „	„ „
No. 218.	♀.	Wagga,	Mar. 5, „	„ „

We found this beautiful and most conspicuous Shrike plentiful from the Berbera Plain up to about 8000 ft. on Wagga Mountain. Like several other Bush-Shrikes, it is always met with in pairs, the females with their black chests being the handsomer of the two.

37. *DRYOSCOPIUS ÆTHIOPICUS* (Gm.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 478.

Nos. 205, 206. ♂ ♀. Wagga, Mar. 2, 1897. Iris light hazel.

This Bush-Shrike was fairly plentiful and was invariably met with in pairs, the two birds spending most of their time in playing at hide and seek and going through ridiculous antics, similar to those of *Laniarius cruentus*. Its note is very melodious.

38. *TELEPHONUS JAMESI* Shelley, Ibis, 1885, p. 403, pl. x. fig. 2; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 479.

No. 291. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 23, 1897. Iris hazel.

This Shrike is far from plentiful. I only met with it on two occasions during the expedition—once on Wagga Mountain, about 7000 ft. above the sea, and once at the base of the Goolis. In 1895 I did not obtain a single specimen, and only one was procured by Dr. Donaldson Smith.

39. *DRYOSCOPUS FUNEBRIS* Hartl.; Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 77.

No. 72. ♂. Sheikh Pass, Jan. 28, 1897. Iris dark brown.

No. 219. Wagga, Mar. 5, ,, ,, ,,

No. 273. ♀. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 21, ,, ,,

This Bush-Shrike is very plentiful on the Goolis range wherever there is dense covert, in which it loves to conceal itself on the approach of man. It has a charmingly melodious note.

40. *EUROCEPHALUS RUEPELLI* Bp.; Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 78.

No. 208. ♀. Gedaïs, Mar. 2, 1897. Iris brown.

On March 2nd Bland brought in a nest of this species with the bird to which it belonged. The nest was similar to the one I found in 1895, being made entirely of spiders' webs, so closely matted together as to give it, at a little distance, the appearance of being made of clay. There were four eggs.

41. *NILAUS MINOR* Sharpe, *P. Z. S.* 1895, p. 479.

No. 45. ♂. Gooban, Jan. 24, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 132. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 13, ,, ,, ,,

No. 133. Juv. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

No. 142. ♂. ,, Feb. 14, ,, ,, ,,

This tiny Bush-Shrike was occasionally met with both on the Gooban and on the Goolis, but it is nowhere very plentiful.

42. *BRADYORNIS PUMILUS* Sharpe; Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 76.

No. 65. ♂ juv. Bihen, Jan. 27, 1897.

This Flycatcher is very plentiful on Gooban Plain from Berbera to the foot-hills of the Goolis, but I did not notice it on the upland plateau.

43. *AEDON FAMILIARIS* (Ménétr.).

Sylvia familiaris Seebold, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* v. p. 36 (1881).

No. 275. Gedaïs, Mar. 3, 1897. Iris brown.

This Rufous Warbler was seen on only two occasions. It

seemed to prefer open ground where there were a few scattered bushes—flying from one to the other or running underneath them and flirting its fan-like tail after the manner of *Erythropygia leucoptera*, to which, in my opinion, it is closely allied.

44. *AEDON GALACTODES* (Temm.) ; Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 45 (1897).

No. 62. ♂. The Gooban, Jan. 24, 1897. Iris black.

It seems somewhat curious that both species of *Aedon* should winter in Somaliland, but my specimens leave no doubt on the subject.

45. *SYLVIA CINEREA* (Bechstein).

No. 96. ♀. Sheikh, Feb. 1, 1897. Iris black.

Our Common Whitethroat does not appear to have been previously recorded from Somaliland: it was doubtless on its migration northward.

46. *SYLVIA BLANFORDI* Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 29, pl. ii. (1881).

No. 35. ♂. Berbera Plain, Jan. 20, 1897. Iris black.

The wing in my specimen measures 2·5 inches, and the tail 2·35. This is in contradiction to the characters given by Seebohm (*l. c.*), who gives the length of the tail as 2·56 and the wing 2·55; so that the tail is supposed to be longer than the wing (see his 'Key to the Species,' *t. c.* p. 6). A difference so small in the length of the wing and tail is a somewhat slender character on which to generalize, and according to my measurements of the type specimen (confirmed by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe) the wing is really 2·56 inches, but the tail is 2·2 inches and no more. It is evident that Mr. Seebohm included the *root* of the tail as well as the tail itself, but the actual feathers measured from the base to the tip are only 2·2 inches. The type specimen is in very worn and abraded plumage and the pale ends are completely worn off. The dark legs of the species, however, seem to distinguish *S. blanfordi* from *S. melanocephala*.

This species appears to be only known from four specimens

up to the present date. One of these is the type in the British Museum, from Rairo in Abyssinia, a second has been procured by Mr. Cholmley near Suakin (Ibis, 1897, p. 203). A third example has been recorded from Shoa by Count Salvadori, Ann. Mus. Civie Genov. (2) vi. p. 259 (1888); and now I have obtained a fourth example in Somaliland.

47. *SYLVIA NANA* H. & E.; Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 26 (1881).

No. 5. Berbera Plain, Jan. 15, 1897. Iris light yellow.

No. 10. ♂. „ „ Jan. 17 „ „ „

So far as I can ascertain, this Desert-Warbler has never before been recorded from Somaliland; but during our stay at Berbera it was far from uncommon on the Maritime Plain, where it frequented the stunted bushes.

48. *PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS* (Bechstein); Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 60 (1881).

No. 99. ♂. Sheikh, Feb. 2, 1897. Iris black.

No. 160. ♀. Wagga, Feb. 20 „ „ „

No. 169. ♀. „ Feb. 23 „ „ „

The Chiffchaff, though fairly common on Wagga Mountain and on the upper ledges of the Goolis, does not seem to have been recorded from Somaliland before. It was, doubtless, on migration.

49. *HYPOLAIS LANGUIDA* (H. & E.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 78.

No. 49. Berbera Plain, Jan. 25, 1897. Iris black.

As in 1895, I procured only one specimen of this species, and, curiously enough, it was shot in the same locality, viz. close to the wells at Dobar.

50. *HYPOLAIS PALLIDA* (H. & E.); Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 82 (1881).

No. 306. ♂. The Gooban, March 26, 1897. Iris hazel.

We procured only one specimen of this Warbler, which is probably much rarer than *H. languida*.

51. EREMOMELA FLAVICRISSALIS Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 481.

No. 114. ♂. Sheikh, Feb. 6, 1897. Iris black.

No. 113. ♀. Sogsoda, Feb. 14 „ Iris light hazel.

Only seen on two or three occasions.

52. SYLVIELLA MICRURA (Rüpp.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 482.

No. 43. ♂. The Gooban, Jan. 23, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 44. ♀. „ „ „ „ „ „

We met with one small party only of these sociable Warblers at the base of the Goolis range. The extreme shortness of their tails gives them a very odd appearance.

53. DRYODROMAS SMITHI Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 482; Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 44 (1897).

No. 194. ♂. Wagga, Feb. 27, 1897. Iris light brown.

No. 222. ♂. Gedais, Mar. 7 „ „ „

No. 288. ♂. The Gooban, Mar. 22 „ „ „

No. 289. ♀. „ „ „ „ „

This Grass-Warbler is fairly plentiful, both on the Gooban and on the Howd plateau, where it is to be met with in parties of from twelve to fifteen. Its note is very Tit-like, and its fussy habit of flitting from bush to bush reminds one forcibly of a family of our Long-tailed Tit.

54. BURNESIA SOMALICA Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 45 (1897).

No. 25. ♂. Berbera Plain, Jan. 19, 1897. Iris light hazel.

No. 26. ♂. „ „ „ „ „ „

Plentiful in January among the stunted bushes close to the town, where their colour exactly matches the sand, stones, and desert vegetation.

55. CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA Cretschm.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 168 (1883).

No. 262. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, March 18, 1897. Iris light hazel.

The above was the only specimen observed during our expedition.

56. *CALAMONASTES SIMPLEX* (Cab.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 80.

No. 66. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Jan. 27, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 272. ♀. „ „ Mar. 21, „ „ „

No. 305. ♂. „ „ Mar. 25, „ „ „

This noisy little Warbler is plentiful along the base of the Goolis, where the thick vegetation seems to suit it. I did not notice it on the plateau.

57. *ERYTHROPYGIA LEUCOPTERA* (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 80.

No. 269. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 19, 1897. Iris black.

No. 274 „ „ Mar. 21, „ „ „

This little Fantail seems to prefer the hot Gooban to the cooler plateau, where I do not remember to have once noticed it.

58. *MERULA LUDOVICÆ* Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 78, pl. ii.

No. 129. ♂. Wagga, Feb. 9, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 191. ♂. „ Feb. 27, „ „ „

No. 198. ♀. „ Feb. 28, „ „ „

This Blackbird is confined to the localities where the Giant Cypress (*Juniperus procera*) grows, the berries of which provide its chief food. On the north face of Wagga Mountain, which is covered with a forest of these grand trees, the song of *M. ludovicæ* may be heard in all directions in the early morning. To the westward, at Darra Ass, some 40 miles distant, is another such forest, where I obtained the first recorded specimens.

59. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (Linn.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 485.

No. 85. ♂. Sheikh ruins, Jan. 30, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 102. ♂. „ „ Feb. 2, „ „ „

No. 115. ♂. Wagga, Mar. 5, „ „ „

No. 117. ♀. „ „ „ „ „

No. 229. ♂. „ Mar. 7, „ „ „

No. 233. ♂. „ Mar. 9, „ „ „

No. 296. ♀. Gedaïs, Mar. 23, „ „ „

We found this Rock-Thrush very local, but at Sheikh there were always several to be seen among the ruins. Also on Wagga it was fairly plentiful, while to the westward of Sheikh Pass I do not remember to have seen it.

60. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.); Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 316 (1881).

No. 111. ♀. Sheikh, Feb. 5, 1897. Iris black.

This is the first specimen of the Blue Rock-Thrush recorded from Somaliland.

61. *MONTICOLA RUFOCINEREUS* (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 79.

No. 90. Juv. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 103. Juv. „ Feb. 2, „ „ „

No. 175. ♂. Wagga, Feb. 23, „ „ „

No. 183. ♂. „ Feb. 24, „ „ „

No. 195. ♂. „ Feb. 27, „ „ „

The habits and flight of this little Rock-Thrush closely resemble those of the Redstart, to which, in my opinion, it is much more nearly allied than it is to the Rock-Thrushes.

62. *IRANIA GUTTURALIS* (Guérin); Lort Phillips, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vi. p. xlvii.

Erythacus gutturalis Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 304 (1881).

No. 283. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 22, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 301. ♂. „ „ Mar. 24, „ „ „

That this species has never been previously recorded from Somaliland is hardly surprising, considering the extreme shyness of the bird and its efforts to escape observation. The moment that it fancies itself watched it will flit out of the further side of the bush in which it happen to be, and make for the next nearest covert, repeating the same tactics should it be followed. Its note is a deliciously soft *chur-r-r-r-r*, the origin of which puzzled me for some time. This bird must be far from uncommon on the Goolis foot-hills in March, but only two specimens were procured, and these with difficulty.

63. *RUTICILLA SEMIRUFA* (H. & E.); Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 344.

R. phœnicurus (nec L.), Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 80.

No. 91. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897. Iris black.

No. 176. ♂. Wagga, Feb. 23, " " "

The bird recorded by me in my previous paper as the Common Redstart turns out to be *R. semirufa*, Dr. Sharpe having made a mistake in the determination of the specimen, which was in rather poor condition. Besides the differences of the under wing-coverts and the colour of the back mentioned by Seebohm (Cat. B. v. p. 335), there seems to be much less white on the forehead in *R. semirufa*, the black on the throat extends over the chest, and the chestnut on the rump and on the under surface of the body is deeper in tint. These differences are very appreciable when a series of the two species is compared. This appears to be the Common Redstart of the Goolis range, where it breeds in February and March, the nesting-places and the colour of the eggs being the same as those of *R. phœnicurus*.

64. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA* (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 80.

No. 9. ♀. Berbera Plain, Jan. 17, 1897. Iris dark brown.

No. 17. ♀. " " Jan. 18, " " "

No. 28. ♂. " " Jan. 19, " " "

No. 29. ♂. " " " " " "

No. 38. ♂. " " Jan. 21, " " "

No. 156. ♀. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 15, 1897 " "

This Chat was very plentiful on the burning Gooban, or Maritime Plain, which locality it seemed to prefer to the cooler upland plateau.

65. *SAXICOLA PHILLIPSI* Shelley; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 79.

No. 78. ♀. Sheikh, Jan. 30, 1897. Iris black.

No. 104. " Feb. 2, " " "

No. 192. ♀. Wagga, Feb. 27, " " "

No. 202. ♂. " Mar. 1, " " "

No. 293. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 23. " " "

This Chat, though found on the Gooban, is much more numerous on the plateau, and we found it also on the open spaces on Wagga Mountain, 8000 ft. above the sea.

66. *SAXICOLA MORIO* Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 372 (1881).

No. 63.	♂.	The Gooban,	Jan. 24,	1897.	Iris black.
No. 64.	♂.	„	Jan. 25,	„	„
No. 170.	♂.	Wagga,	Feb. 23,	„	„
No. 171.	♂.	„	„	„	„
No. 230.	♀.	„	Mar. 8,	„	„
No. 232.	♀.	„	Mar. 9,	„	„
No. 257.	♀.	Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 15,	„	„
No. 270.	♂.	„	Mar. 21,	„	„

This Chat, which has not previously been recorded from Somaliland, was, curiously enough, very numerous during our last visit.

67. *SAXICOLA DESERTI* Temm.; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 79.

No. 11.	♂.	Berbera Plain,	Jan. 17,	1897.	Iris black.
No. 12.	♀.	„	„	„	„
No. 18.	♂.	„	Jan. 18,	„	„
No. 24.	♂.	„	Jan. 19,	„	„
No. 67.	♂.	Goolis foot-hills,	Jan. 27,	„	„

The Desert-Chat is very plentiful on the Berbera Plain in January, where it was to be seen in all directions perched, in true Chat-fashion, on the tops of the stunted bushes.

68. *MYRMECOCICHLA MELANURA* (Temm.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 79.

No. 36.	♀.	Berbera Plain,	Jan. 20,	1897.	Iris black.
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This little Chat seems to delight in the small bare hills that dot the Maritime Plain, but I never noticed it on the green slopes of the Goolis.

69. *PYCNONOTUS ARSINOË* (H. & E.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vi. p. 148 (1881).

No. 51.	♂.	Goolis foot-hills,	Jan. 25,	1897.	Iris black.
No. 52.	♂.	„	„	„	„
No. 53.	♀.	„	„	„	„

No. 190.	♂.	Wagga,	Feb. 26, 1897.	Iris black.
No. 199.	♂.	„	Feb. 28, „	„ „
No. 266.	♂.	Rugga Pass,	Mar. 18, „	„ „

This Bulbul is one of the commonest objects of bird-life from Berbera to the summit of Wagga Mountain. All through the day its beautiful liquid note is to be heard in all directions.

70. *PACHYPRORA ORIENTALIS* (Heugl.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 76.

No. 70.	♀.	Sheikh,	Jan. 28, 1897.	Iris yellow.
No. 93.	♂.	„	Jan. 31, „	„ „
No. 149.	♀.	Sogsoda,	Feb. 16, „	„ „
No. 150.	♂.	„	„ „	„ „
No. 290.	♀.	Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 23, „	„ „
No. 298.	♂.	„ „	„ „	„ „

This tiny Flycatcher is fairly plentiful in the Goolis.

71. *TERPSIPHONE CRISTATA* (Gm.); Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 76.

No. 131.	♂ juv.	Wagga,	Feb. 13, 1897.	Iris dark purple.
No. 166.	♂.	„	Feb. 23, „	„ „
No. 187.	♂.	„	Feb. 25, „	„ „

We saw this beautiful Flycatcher only on one or two occasions. The specimens obtained were shot at the Hanka-deely Wells.

72. *COTILE OBSOLETA* Cab.

Ptyonoprogne obsoleta (Cab.); Shelley, *B. Africa*, p. 101.

No. 211.	♀.	Wagga,	Mar. 3, 1897.	Iris black.
No. 295.		Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 23, „	„ „

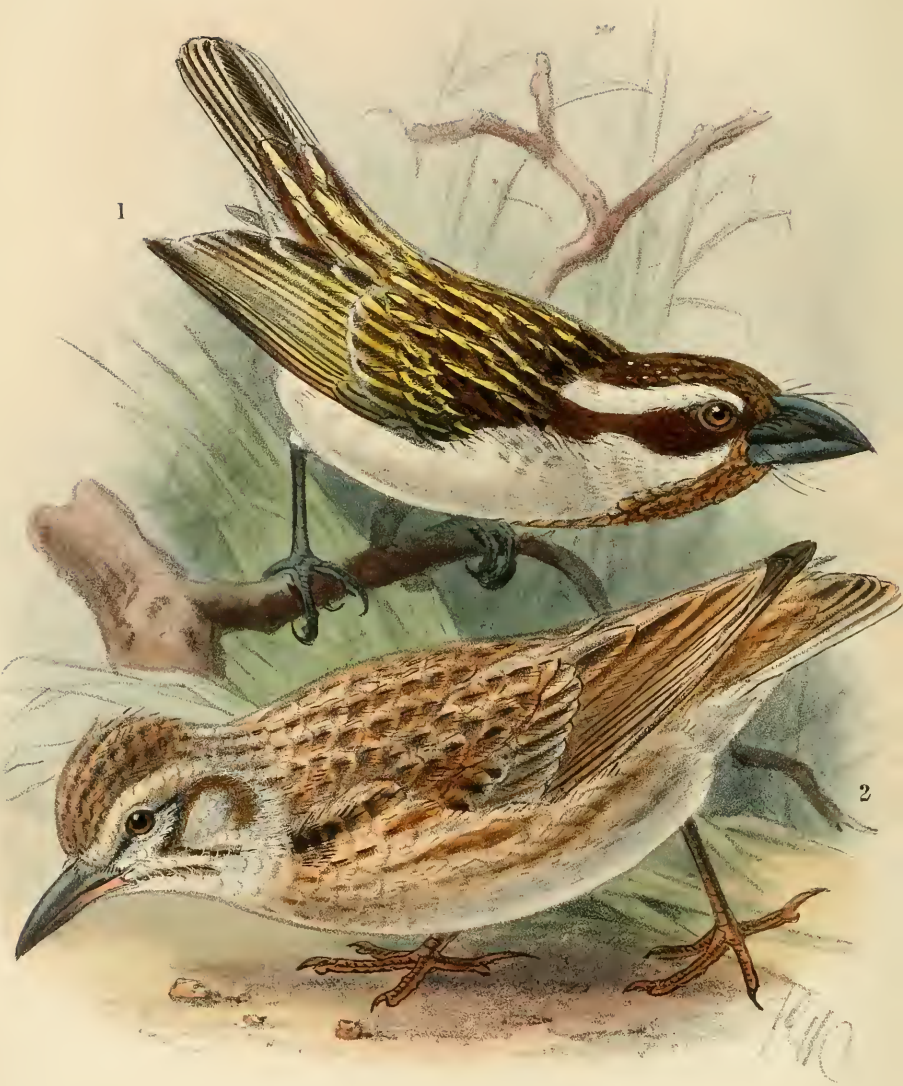
This Rock-Martin is very plentiful along the Goolis range. In March we found numbers breeding on the steep face of a cliff, against which their nests seemed to be glued.

73. *DENDROMUS HEMPRICHI* (H. & E.); Hargitt, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xviii. p. 299 (1890).

Dendropicus hemprichi Shelley, *Ibis*, 1895, p. 393.

No. 136.	Juv.	Sogsoda,	Feb. 14, 1897.	Iris hazel.
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Not rare, but, like all Woodpeckers, shy and retiring in its habits.



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros imp.

1. TRICHOLÆMA BLANDI.

2. PSEUDALÆMON FREMANTLI.

74. *CAMPOTHERA NUBICA* (Gm.); Shelley, Ibis, 1885, p. 393.

No. 117. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 7, 1897. Iris hazel.

No. 135. ♂. " Feb. 14, " " "

No. 145. ♀. " Feb. 16, " " "

No. 146. Juv. " " " " "

Fairly common. Its cry is very loud, resembling that of the Green Woodpecker. We found a nest in February containing two fledged young.

75. *INDICATOR MINOR* Steph.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 9 (1891).

No. 172. ♂. Wagga Mountain, Feb. 23, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 200. " " Mar. 1, " " "

No. 201. ♀. " " " " " "

This little Honey-guide has not previously been recorded from Somaliland. The specimens obtained were shot at the Hankadeely Wells, about 7000 ft. up the mountain; their crops were full of a white mealy substance.

My specimens are very dark, and have a dark grey throat and chest; they agree with the Bogos-land specimen of Jesse in the British Museum.

76. *TRACHYPHONUS MARGARITATUS* (Cretzschm.); Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 49 (1897).

No. 100. ♂. Sheikh ruins, Feb. 2, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 101. ♂. " " " " " "

No. 238. ♀. Gedaïs, Mar. 11, " " "

No. 239. ♀. " " " " "

No. 275. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, " " " "

This Barbet is far from common in the Goolis, small parties of from 4 to 8 being occasionally met with. It seems to prefer the thick creeper-covered bushes which are to be found along the watercourses. Its flight much resembles that of a Woodpecker.

77. *TRICHOLÆMA BLANDI* Lort Phillips, Bull. B. O. Club, vi. p. xlvii. (Plate IX. fig. 1.)

No. 287. ♀. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 22, 1897. Iris brown.

This species is very similar to *T. stigmatothorax*, but

differs in having no red spot on the breast, while the distinct white tips to the feathers of the head and throat constitute another striking character. I have named it after Mr. Ivers Bland, who brought me the first specimen obtained. We saw it on several occasions in the stunted mimosas, which it seemed to prefer to other trees.

78. *COCCYSTES CAFER* (Licht.); Shelley, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xix. p. 221.

I obtained an adult female specimen of this species on the Dogga Mountain on March 3rd, 1897, being the first recorded example from Somaliland. But the bird ranges as far north as Bogos (*Jesse*) and the valley of the Anseba (*Blanford*).

79. *SCHIZORHIS LEUCOGASTER* (Rüpp.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 74.

No. 105. ♂ juv. Sheikh, Jan. 31, 1897.

No. 106. ♀ ad. „ „ „

The young bird differs only in being more ashy brown than the adults. It has a much smaller crest, and the tail-feathers have a second white band.

These birds were tolerably plentiful both on the Gooban Plain and on the upper Goolis, but we did not notice them on Wagga Mountain above 4000 feet.

80. *CORACIAS LORTI* Shelley; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 74.

No. 75. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 29, 1897.

Of this Roller, which was very numerous along the Goolis in 1895, we obtained only a single specimen, while *C. nævius* was equally scarce.

81. *CORACIAS NÆVIUS* Daud.; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 74.

No. 78. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Jan. 28, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 234. ♂. Gedaïs, Mar. 10, „ „ „

No. 235. ♀. „ „ „ „ „

We did not find this Roller nearly so plentiful as on previous expeditions.

82. *LOPHOCEROS FLAVIROSTRIS* (Rüpp.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 499.

No. 57. Goolis foot-hills, Jan. 27, 1897. Iris yellow.

This Hornbill is generally seen in pairs, and is not rare. It seems to prefer the hot Gooban Plain to the cooler air of the plateau.

83. *LOPHOCEROS MEDIANUS* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 498.

No. 248. Juv. Gedaïs, Mar. 13, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 299. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 23, „ Iris yellow.

Both old and young birds brought home by me are entirely white on the sides of the face, and have only a little grey on the ear-coverts, so that Mr. Elliot is probably mistaken in uniting the species with *L. erythrorhynchus*.

84. *UPUPA SOMALIENSIS* Salvin; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 73.

No. 140. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 14, 1897. Iris hazel.

I did not find this Hoopoe nearly so numerous as on previous expeditions.

85. *IRRISOR ERYTHORHYNCHUS* (Lath.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 72.

No. 108. ♂. Sheikh, Feb. 3, 1897. Iris light hazel.

Common in flocks of from eight to ten along the water-courses, where the biggest trees are always to be found.

86. *RHINOPOMASTES MINOR* (Rüpp.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 300.

No. 55. ♂ juv. Sheikh, Jan. 27, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 56. ♂ ad. „ „ „ „

No. 107. ♀ ad. „ Feb. 3, „ „ „

No. 220. ♂. Wagga, 7000 ft., Mar. 6, „ „ „

No. 250. ♀ juv. Gedaïs, Mar. 13, „ „ „

No. 304. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 25, „ „ „

The young birds are smoky brown or sooty blackish underneath; the upper surface is far less glossy than in the adults, and the sides of the face are sooty black. The bill is of a dull yellow, with the terminal two-thirds blackish. The bird was fairly plentiful among the mimosa-trees.

87. *MELITTOPHAGUS CYANOSTICTUS* (Cab.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 73.

No. 144. ♀. Sogsoda, Feb. 14, 1897. Iris red.

No. 244. Gedaïs, Mar. 12, ,, ,,

No 307. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 25, ,, ,,

Common everywhere. On March 25th we found a nest of this little Bee-eater in a sandy bank, containing young ones, the chirrups of which we could hear at the end of their dark passage. Unfortunately, one of our party (in ignorance of the fact) shot the male bird, and the grief of the widow was piteous to behold. She darted about before the entrance to her home in the greatest distress, loudly twittering forth her loss and her forlorn condition. This little ruse, if ruse it was, was crowned with complete success, for within an hour a new mate had come to the rescue, and we watched him with the now happy mother, feeding his ready-made family with as much assiduity as if they were his own children.

88. *CAPRIMULGUS INORNATUS* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 503.

No. 212. Wagga Mountain, 5000 ft., Mar. 3, 1897. Iris black.

We saw several of these Goatsuckers at Hankadeely, our camping-place on Wagga Mountain; they were hawking for moths high in the air at sundown.

89. *SCOPS LEUCOTIS* (Temm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ii. p. 97 (1875).

No. 236. ♀. Gedaïs, March 10, 1897. Iris yellow.

This Owl, of which we obtained only one specimen, may be plentiful, but, being strictly nocturnal in its habits, it is not often noticed.

90. *CARINE SPILOGASTRA* (Heugl.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 504.

No. 110. ♂. Sheikh ruins, Feb. 4, 1897. Iris yellow.

This little Owl, though seldom seen, must be very plentiful, as its beautiful soft call-notes are heard in every direction as soon as the daylight has gone. It breeds in the tall white-ant-hills and in hollow trees.

91. *CIRCUS MACRURUS* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 505.

No. 223. ♀. Gedaïs, Mar. 6, 1897. Iris hazel; legs yellow.

This Harrier is far from plentiful in Northern Somaliland at least during the first four months of the year. Its food appears to consist of locusts and lizards.

92. *MELIERAX POLIOPTERUS* (Cab.); Shelley, P. Z. S. 1882, p. 305.

No. 77. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 30, 1897. { Iris hazel; legs and
No. Gedaïs, Mar. 13, ,, { base of beak dark
orange.

Mr. Oscar Neumann (Orn. Monatsb. v. p. 192, 1897) has separated the Chanting Goshawk of Somaliland as *Melierax poliopterus somaliensis*, which is supposed to have the crown of the head ashy grey, not differing from the colour of the neck. In *M. poliopterus* from East Africa the crown is said to be blackish grey, contrasting with the neck. My two specimens do not bear out this difference, and they are absolutely identical with two East-African examples in the British Museum. This Goshawk is tolerably common, but is more often seen perched on some high tree or ant-hill than on the wing.

93. *MELIERAX NIGER* Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 506.

No. 207. ♂. Wagga, Mar. 2, 1897. Iris hazel; legs orange.

This was the only specimen seen, and is the first recorded from the Goolis or Northern Somaliland.

94. *AQUILA RAPAX* (Temm.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 507; Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 57 (1897).

No. 156. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 19, 1897. { Iris brown and yel-
No. 277. ♂. Wagga, Mar. 6, ,, { low; feet yellow.

Very plentiful. This Eagle is a persistent camp-follower, and a very noisy one too. It has a particularly irritating cry, which is simply maddening when one has any writing to do.

95. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS* Gm.; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 509.
No. 76. ♂. Sheikh, Jan. 29, 1897. Iris hazel.

This Kite is very plentiful, from Berbera, where it may be seen in hundreds, to the summit of the Goolis range. Its boldness and audacity I have never seen equalled. A native standing close to me was holding a small piece of meat in his hand when one of these birds swooped down and seized it, inflicting at the same time a horrid wound with one of its claws. This was only one of many such incidents.

96. *POLIOHIERAX SEMITORQUATUS* (Smith); Shelley, Ibis, 1885, p. 391.

No. 141. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 14, 1897. Iris brown; legs orange.

No. . ♀.

No. . ♀.

These miniature Falcons are fairly plentiful, but they are not often seen, as they are very sedentary in their habits, sitting for hours on the same dead bough watching till some unfortunate lizard ventures far enough from the protecting covert, when, with graceful "stoop," they seize their victim, and return with him to their "watch-tower."

97. *CERCHNEIS TINNUNCULUS* (L.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 510.

No. 130. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 11, 1897. { Iris brown; legs
No. 214. ♂. Wagga, Mar. 4, ,, { yellow.

This seems to be the Common Kestrel of the Goolis, but it is not very plentiful.

98. *BUTORIDES BREVIPES* (H. & E.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 278.

No. 32. ♂. Berbera, Jan. 19, 1897. Iris brown.

Shot in the harbour at Berbera. This specimen agrees with the dark-plumaged race which inhabits the shores of the Red Sea.

99. *LEPTERODIAS GULARIS* (Bosc); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 114.

No. 19. ♂. Berbera, Jan. 18, 1897. Iris light yellow.

No. 33. ♀. ,, Jan. 19, ,, ,, ,,

These Egrets are common in Berbera harbour, where they

may be seen rushing about at low tide with outspread wings, chasing small fishes in the shallow pools left by the sea—a curious habit, contrasting strangely with the dignified demeanour of their near relation, our Common Heron.

100. *LOPHOTIS GINDIANA* (Oust.) ; Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 86.

No. 300. ♂. The Gooban, Mar. 23, 1897. Iris yellow.

” ♀. ” ” ” ” ” ”

These Bustards are plentiful in the Gooban, where we found them breeding in March and April in 1895.

101. *ÆDICNEMUS SCOLOPAX* (Gm.).

No. 116. ♀. Sogsoda, Feb. 7, 1897. Iris and legs yellow.

This specimen of the European Thick-knee was found in the same district as *Æ. affinis*.

102. *ÆDICNEMUS AFFINIS* Rüpp. ; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 513.

No. 123. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 8, 1897. Iris and legs yellow.

This is evidently the resident Thick-knee of Somaliland. It is generally met with in pairs on the more open parts of the country, where we found it breeding in April, the eggs being laid on the bare ground.

103. *RHINOPTILUS HARTINGI*, Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 513.

No. 113. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 6, 1897. Iris hazel ; legs white.

We obtained this specimen, the only one seen, on the Sogsoda Plain.

104. *RHINOPTILUS CINCTUS* (Heugl.) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1885, p. 416.

No. 182. ♂. Gedaïs, Feb. 24, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 243. ♀. ” Mar. 12, ” ” ”

Seen only on these two occasions.

105. *CURSORIUS SOMALIENSIS* Shelley; Lort Phillips, *Ibis*, 1896, p. 36.

No. 118.	♂.	Sogsoda Plain,	Feb. 7,	1897.	} Iris black ; legs white.
No. 119.	♂.	”	”	”	
No. 125.	♂.	”	Feb. 9,	”	”
No. 126.	♀.	”	”	”	”
No. 127.	”	”	Mar. 15,	”	”
No. 128.	♂.	”	”	”	”
No. 258.	♂.	”	”	”	”

We found several flocks of these Coursers on the Sogsoda Plain, which is about 3000 feet above the sea.

106. *STEPHANIBYX CORONATA* (Gm.); Sharpe, *P.Z. S.* 1895, p. 514.

No. 109. ♂. Sheikh, Feb. 4, 1897. Iris yellow, legs red.

The “ Watchman-bird,” as the natives call this Plover, is fairly plentiful on the Goolis, in small parties of from five to eight. In the daytime it is very tame and easily approached, but at night the slightest noise alarms it, and the flock will rise into the air and fly round and round the disturber, be he man or beast, uttering loud cries. These alarm-notes have often given timely warning to the inhabitants of a native village of an intended hostile attack, and so saved them from being looted.

107. *CHARADRIUS DOMINICUS* (Müll.); Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxiv. p. 196 (1896).

♀ juv. Berbera, Jan. 15, 1897.

This little Golden Plover was shot in the Berbera harbour, where there was a small flock of about a dozen.

108. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA* (Lath.).

Nos. 30, 31. ♂ ♂. Berbera, Jan. 19, 1897. Iris brown.

The Kentish Plover frequented the Berbera harbour at low tide, where small flocks were to be seen feeding on the mud-flats.

109. *OXYECHUS TRICOLLARIS* (V.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 514.

No. 68. ♂.	Bihen springs,	Jan. 28,	1897.	} Iris brown, eyelids ver- milion.
No. 69. ♂.	" "	" "	" "	
No. 276. ♀.	Goolis foot-hills,	Mar. 21,	" "	
No. 281. ♂.	" "	" "	" "	

This little Plover is tolerably plentiful along the streams at the base of the Goolis up to about 1000 ft.; above that elevation I did not notice it. It is extremely tame, allowing one to come within a few yards of it, when it will only take a short flight and alight again immediately.

110. *HELODROMAS OCHROPUS* (L.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiv. p. 437 (1896).

No. 282. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 22, 1897. Iris hazel.

Found throughout the Goolis wherever there is running water, though not so plentiful as *Tringoides hypoleucus*. When disturbed it springs into the air and dashes off uttering a wild note resembling that of the Common Redshank.

111. *TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS* (L.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 515.

No. 6. ♀. Berbera gardens, Jan. 19, 1897. Iris dark brown.

We found these little Sandpipers wherever there was running water, both on the Goolis range and at Berbera itself, where they delighted in the irrigation-channels of the many gardens.

112. *CALIDRIS ARENARIA* (L.); Heuglin, Ibis, 1859, p. 348.

No. 7. ♀. Berbera, Jan. 16, 1897. Iris brown.

The Sanderling is to be found on the mud-flats in the harbour at low tide along with other small Waders.

113. *LARUS HEMPRICHI* (Bruch.); Elliot, Field Columb. Mus., Orn. i. no. 2, p. 64 (1897).

No. 20. Berbera, Jan. 18, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 21. " " " " "

This is the common Gull of the Gulf of Aden. It does

not seem to care much for sitting on the water, perhaps on account of the sharks, but prefers buoys or boats as a resting-place when not on the wing; and people who are particular as to the condition of their boats resort to various devices for scaring away these untidy visitors, a string of small red flags being most effective.

114. *TACHYBAPTES CAPENSIS* (Salvad.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 515.

No. 240. ♂ juv. Gedaïs wells, Mar. 2, 1897.

We met with this single specimen in a water-hole, where it was evidently feeding on the tadpoles which were swarming in the pond.

115. *VINAGO WAALIA* (Gm.); Lort Phillips, Ibis, 1896, p. 85.

No. 231. ♀. Wagga, Mar. 8, 1897. { Iris red, feet
yellow.

No. 259. ♂. Goolis foot-hills, Mar. 17, ,, ,,

No. 260. ♀. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Very common on the Goolis range and on Mt. Wagga. During the heat of the day they love the deep shade afforded by the sycamore fig-tree, which is always to be found in the vicinity of water.

116. *CENA CAPENSIS* (Linn.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 518.

No. 79. ♀. Sheikh ruins, Jan. 30, 1897. Iris hazel.

This little Ground-dove is very plentiful on the Goolis.

117. *CHALCOPELIA AFRA* (Linn.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1895, p. 518.

No. 162. ♂. Wagga, Feb. 21, 1897. Iris black.

No. 163. ♀. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

No. 173. ♂. ,, Feb. 23, ,, ,, ,,

118. *PTEROCLES LICHTENSTEINI* Temm.; Salvad. Mem. R. Accad. Sci. Torino, (2) xlv. p. 561.

No. 241. ♀. Gedaïs wells, Mar. 12, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 242. ♂. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

No. . Sheikh wells.

No. . ,, ,,

This is the common Sand-grouse of the Goolis range, and its habits do not seem to differ from those of other species.



$\frac{1}{2}$

J G Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern Bros. imp.

FRANCOLINUS LORTI.

At nightfall small flocks arrive at the water-holes in quick succession, and for about 20 minutes after sunset the air is filled with their soft guttural call-note, which, once heard, is never forgotten, and seems to be common to all the species of Sand-grouse I have met with.

119. *PTERNISTES INFUSCATUS* Cab.; Salvad. Mem. R. Accad. Sci. Torino, (2) xlv. p. 562.

No. 122. ♂. Sogsoda, Feb. 2, 1897. Iris brown.

No. 285. ♀. The Gooban, Mar. 22, ,, ,, ,,

120. *FRANCOLINUS KIRKI* Hartl.; Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 149 (1893).

No. 157. ♀. Sogsoda, Feb. 19, 1897.

No. 185. ♂. ,, ,, ,, Iris brown.

This Francolin has been determined for me by Mr. Ogilvie Grant.

121. *FRANCOLINUS LORTI* Sharpe, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, vi. p. xlvii. (Plate X.)

No. 213. ♂. Wagga Mountain, 9000 feet.

This Francolin is most nearly allied to *F. gutturalis*, with the dotted line of spots skirting the throat more continuous and not separate, so that they form a line. It approaches *F. uluensis* in having a white patch on the sides of the neck spotted with black. The chestnut patches on the feathers of the fore-neck and chest are much deeper in colour, and the black markings on the rest of the underparts are very narrow and linear or arrow-shaped. The flanks are very scantily marked with the same deep chestnut-brown as the chest. The rufous on the quill-lining is much less and is almost confined to the basal half, resembling *F. uluensis*.

Total length 12·5 inches, culmen 1, wing 6·6, tail 4·75, tarsus 1·75.

XXXVI.—*Proceedings at the Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1898.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held at the rooms of the Zoological Society of